

HE LEADS THEM ALL

Greatest Living Pianist Will Soon Come to America.

RECENT WORK IN BRUSSELS

And Colonne's Orchestra With a Baton Which None but Rubenstein Could Handle



ALEXANDER BULL, the violinist, who has had wide experience as an accompanist for his father, Ole Bull, and other well-known artists, and who is now giving concerts among his countrymen in the northwest, entertains strong hopes that he may persuade his friend, M. Arthur DeGreef, to make a tour in this country.

Should M. DeGreef consent to visit America, he is sure to receive the same enthusiastic reception in our principal cities that he has received in Paris, London and other great musical centers of Europe, as well as in Brussels, where he reigns supreme as head of the piano department at the Conservatory of Music, honored and beloved alike by striving pupils and learned professors.

Born at Louvain, Belgium, October 10, 1882, Arthur DeGreef, just within the thirties, has already reaped a harvest of success that to many would seem ample for a lifetime, but unless all signs fall there is yet in store for him a still more plentiful harvest of professional glory. Unlike many other artists he has the good fortune to have his talents tenderly nurtured from the outset, and to receive thorough literary, as well as musical training. His musical genius made itself manifest while he was yet in the nursery, and when he was but nine years old he had already won him the first prize for piano playing in his native town. As a result of this he was admitted, in due season, to the Conservatory of Music at Brussels, where he took a thorough course of studies under Dervier, the famous director of the institution, and other eminent professors. His progress was rapid and so completely were his masters impressed with confidence in his ability that when he was but fifteen



ARTHUR DEGREEF.

He was appointed teacher of piano playing and harmony at the Conservatory. Not content with having won the first prize in all departments, his ambition led him to soar still higher. At the age of seventeen he was honored with the gold medal and the "diplome de capacite," which had then been awarded to no other student, and testified to his profound knowledge of the science of music, as well as his skill as a virtuoso.

Shortly after this he met the great master Liszt, who heard him play, and was so much impressed with his musical ability that he dedicated to him a prelude and fugue, and presented him with a number of valuable manuscripts. The young man now made several brilliant concert tours through Belgium, Germany and France. His fame steadily grew, and at the age of twenty-three he was made full professor of the piano at the Brussels Conservatory.

In 1887 M. Oscar Comettant, the gifted French journalist and musical critic, was sent by his government to inquire into the state of music in Nor-

way, Sweden and Denmark. In Christiania, at the residence of Carl Wertheim, he renewed his acquaintance with the son of his old friend Ole Bull, Mr. Alexander Bull, who furnished him material aid in fulfilling his mission. Later in Paris Mr. Bull consented to be one of a committee to organize some Scandinavian concerts, to be given for the benefit of a fund for French artists. Among those who became interested in the enterprise was Mme. Christine Nilsson, who took pleasure in making a free contribution of her services for the cause.

One day while arrangements were being perfected for these concerts M. Comettant asked Mr. Bull at what hotel he should place a young Belgian pianist who had been engaged to play Edward Grieg's music. "If he is a nice man," said Mr. Bull, "you may send him to my hotel, but if not you had better keep him in your own quarters at Rue de la Montagne." Shortly after this the young artist, who was none other than Arthur DeGreef, made his appearance, and the son of Ole Bull and this interpreter of the music of Ole Bull's land at once became fast friends.

The young Belgian made a decided hit at this, his first public performance in Paris, and the following winter he accepted an invitation to play at one of the concerts of the celebrated Colonne, who asks only artists of the first rank to take part in his programmes. He gave also a brilliant concert in Playel's hall, and the musical critics of Paris united in awarding him unanimous praise. In addition to Grieg's minor concert he played this time a sonata for piano and violin by Grieg, with the violinist Johannes Wolff, who is now delighting New York music lovers. He also played selections from Bach, Schumann, Liszt, etc., and perhaps in no other way more thoroughly exemplified his power than in the way he held his excitable Paris audience spellbound during his performance of Mendelssohn's "Variations Serieuse."

In 1893 DeGreef represented his country at the Bologna exposition, and created an immense sensation both with his performances on the modern piano-forte and on that exceedingly interesting instrument of the old school, the clavichord, or clavicembel. On the same trip he gave a very successful concert at the Milan conservatory. During the autumn he made a concert tour in Norway, with his friend Alexander Bull, accompanied by the Belgian violinist, Cesar Thomson, pronounced by many the greatest violin virtuoso of the day. So great a favorite did the young pianist become during this trip, that Mr. Bull felt justified in arranging for a second one. The two gentlemen were breakfasting together in Brussels one morning when Mr. Bull broached the subject, and proposed trying the effect of a series of piano recitals in Norway. "Do you desire it very much?" asked DeGreef, "I do," was the reply. "Then there is my hand on the bargain," cried the warm-hearted Belgian. Later a well-known manager offered DeGreef a large sum to travel with him. The young pianist told him he was engaged and with whom. "Cannot I buy you off?" asked the manager. "I have no contract," said DeGreef, "but I have given my word, and this is better than a contract." This anecdote is characteristic of the man.

The second trip in Norway was a triumphal march. At the last of a series of historical piano recitals given in Bergen, DeGreef was presented with a laurel wreath after a magnificent performance of Grieg's "A Minor Concerto." The artist at once stepped down among the audience, took the composer, who was present, by the hand, led him to the platform and placed the wreath on his head. Grieg, of course, resisted, while DeGreef, who is a giant in physical as well as artistic strength, persisted, but finally, amid deafening applause, the Norse tone-poet was permitted to take the wreath and crown the Belgian interpreter of his tone-poem with it.

After having played at all the principal cities of Norway, M. DeGreef and his friend sailed from Christiania on the steamer Alpha, bound for Antwerp. At Antwerp, one of the ports where they touched, a gentleman came on board and proposed a concert at Christiansand, their last stopping place in Norway. The plan was readily received, the captain's consent to delay the vessel was obtained and the gentlemen speedily telegraphed the

news to friends in Christiansand. They, in turn, announced the concert by telephone to all parts of the city. It was then four o'clock in the afternoon. The programme, which was written on an immense poster designed by an artist among the passengers and fastened later on the door of the concert hall, stated that the concert was to begin promptly at eight o'clock in the evening. DeGreef made his toilet on board. A crowded house awaited his coming, and he was greeted as an old friend by hosts of admirers he had won through previous performances in the town. He responded good-naturedly when placed after piece was called for regardless of the prescribed programme. The concert was followed by a champagne supper at the club, enlivened by sparkling toasts, and then the entire company followed the guests to the steamer, wishing them a prosperous voyage and a speedy return. Capt. Nielsen, the captain in charge, the china trade this day last session year by year in the large world consumption results.



EDWARD GRIEG.

who had been present at both concert and supper and had excused himself early, surprised them with a magnificent display of fireworks.

In January, 1899, the celebrated Colonne of Paris gave the second part of his concert on two consecutive Sundays to Edward Grieg, intrusting to him the precious baton which, save himself, no other than Rubenstein and Tchaikowsky had wielded before. Upon this occasion Arthur DeGreef once more played the Grieg minor piano concerto in the French metropolis, this time by Grieg's special invitation, and with an orchestra under Grieg's leadership. The Norse composer's admiration for him as a man and an artist had not been dulled by time, and having discovered the gifted Belgian's great talent for composition he begged him not to allow his skill in interpreting the works of others to interfere with his own original productions. There were others who discovered his ability as a composer. A manuscript of his "Variations for String Orchestra on a Flemish Popular Air" fell one day into the hands of Gevaert, the omnipotent director of the Brussels Conservatory of Music. He ordered it to be performed by his orchestra, which ranks exceedingly high, having finer strings than any other in the world, since the best violinists are now of the Belgian school. This was an exceptional compliment, for according to tradition it was customary for the works of no living composer to be given at the performance of the orchestra. Even Liszt, who at one time expressed a desire to have something of his brought out under Gevaert's magic baton, received the reply: "Yes, master, some day when you are above."

DESTRUCTIVE OCCUPATIONS. Felons That Lark for Wax and Artificial Flower Workers.

Very little is known of the danger to life and health that exists in many occupations where women are largely employed. In England a league has been formed to call attention to the facts of the case, and Mrs. C. Mollet has made extensive investigations, says the New York Sun.

In the linen trade the flax has to be left to soak in the water, and rheumatism, bronchitis and pneumonia seize upon the women who have to deal with it in this stage. In the fax-carding department the fine dust produces lung disease and kills its victims at thirty. In fur-cake making the odor and the fine fluff are both extremely injurious. A singular injury is caused to artificial flower makers, especially those employed in making white flowers by gaslight. The dry dust causes inflamed eyelids, and the work is so trying that women are worn out long before middle age. In

the china trade this day last session year by year in the large world consumption results. In the white-lead trade horrors are found quite equal to those of the phosphorus match trade. Lead is in itself highly poisonous, and the most dangerous part of the process of making the ordinary blue pigs of lead into the deadly white carbonate is carried on by women, because it requires less muscular strength than the rest. Cakes of lead are put to ferment in tan and acetic acid for three months, and then the cakes have to be grubbed out of the mixture by hand, the poison getting under the finger nails. After being ground to powder under water the dishes of damp lead have to be placed in a stove to dry for a fortnight. The worst part is when these poor women have to take away the dry, hot, white carbonate of lead from the stoves. Even the muffled heads, the woolen respirators, the sack overalls, fail to keep out the deadly dust. They rarely live many years; sometimes a few weeks or months bring on the symptoms of acute lead poisoning, to which they rapidly succumb. This white carbonate of lead is used for glazing china and enamel advertisements. The only safeguard would be in prohibiting the manufacture, and it would be possible to do so, for various substitutes are in the market.

THE TABLES TURNED.

A Would-be Vivisector Operated On by His Savage Allies.

One of the most curious expeditions ever planned by man was that once undertaken by Dr. J. G. Bunting, of Portland, says the Lewiston (Me.) Journal. During all his life he had been a close student of the philosophy of digestion, and for the purpose of his investigations he had that remarkable Canadian, Alexis St. Martin, in his care for twenty years. In order to cinch matters and provide facts for some of the doubting Thomases, Dr. Bunting cast about for some one else upon whom he might continue to experiment.

He could think of but one plan, and that was to go to Africa, buy two slaves and operate upon their stomachs. By opening the body near the fifth rib and perforating the stomach a condition could be produced similar to that existing in the person of St. Martin. Therefore the doctor purchased his supplies and sailed across to Tunis, in the north of Africa. There he hired a native chief with forty of his followers, paying them a liberal retainer fee and promising alluring largess when the trip was ended. They set forth. The doctor carried on thousands pounds in his inside pocket and the chief probably lay awake four nights thinking about the matter. At any rate, on the fifth night he sneaked into the doctor's tent and delivered a little address over the muzzles of two pistols. When he had concluded the doctor passed over his ducats and the chief passed over the border along with his renegade band. They helped themselves to such supplies as suited their artless and unenlightened tastes. The doctor came back without a retinue and with a deal of experience that will never appear in a medical work.

A Problem. "John," said his wife, "what are you doing?" "Figuring," he replied. "Figuring on what?" "On which we can better afford to do—buy coal or use the parlor furniture for fuel."—Washington Star.

A Lady's Watch is About the Size of a bottle of Smith's Bile Beans. They are daily in form, sugar-coated for the taste and their action makes them peerless as a means of moving the bowels. "There is no grip in a barrel of them." They regulate the flow of bile, hence are efficacious in all cases of indigestion and diarrhoea—in fact, in all derangements of the liver, stomach and bowels. A six-cent bottle will often save a five-dollar bill if taken in time. Ask for the SMALL size. Take no substitute for SMITH'S Bile Beans!

PECK'S HEADACHE POWDERS

ARE WARRANTED TO CURE HEADACHE.

PRICE 25c.

These Powders for PECK BROTHERS.



KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment when rightly used. The many who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embodied in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its possessing in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectually cleansing the system, dispelling colds, headaches and fevers and permanently curing constipation. It has given satisfaction to millions and met with the approval of the medical profession, because it acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels without weakening them and it is perfectly free from every objectionable substance.

Syrup of Figs is for sale by all druggists in 50c and \$1 bottles, but it is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., only, whose name is printed on every package, also the name, Syrup of Figs, and being well informed, you will not accept any substitute if offered.



DRUNKENNESS

Or the Excess Habit, Positively Cured by Administration of Dr. Hoffman's Golden Specific.

It can be given in a cup of coffee or tea, or in food, without the knowledge of the patient. It is absolutely harmless, and will induce a permanent cure, no matter how long the habit has been continued. It is a powerful and effective remedy, and is in every instance a perfect cure. It is sold by all druggists, and is in every instance a perfect cure. It is sold by all druggists, and is in every instance a perfect cure.

SEE OUR 650 COAL

SAMPLE 3 BUSHELS 100

SOUTH COAL CO.

PECK'S HEADACHE POWDERS

ARE WARRANTED TO CURE HEADACHE.

PRICE 25c.

These Powders for PECK BROTHERS.

A HIGH-CLASS illustrated monthly magazine is the home to no larger a luxury. It is a magazine, and to most the delectable created by this country. The Cosmopolitan Magazine, giving poetry, as it does, 1000 pages of reading by the ablest living authors, with over 1200 illustrations by clever artists, has stepped into the breach, with a reduction in its price that has started the literary world.

The Cosmopolitan One Year.

THE publishers of THE HERALD, fully alive to the needs of its patrons, have made special arrangements with this expert monthly, whereby it will receive orders for

THE COSMOPOLITAN, One Year BOTH FOR THE HERALD, Three Months \$2.50.

The Herald Three Months

SEND ORDERS TO

GRAND RAPIDS HERALD, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

OR CALL AT OFFICE IF CONVENIENT.

THE price of the great illustrated monthlies in the past has been \$3.00 and \$4.00 a year, and they were to be found only in the more pretentious homes. Our offer furnishes a help to all families, no matter how modest their means, to keep in touch with the greatest minds of the world, as THE COSMOPOLITAN has today the strongest regular staff of any existing periodical.



DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE

CITY HAS A WATER SUPPLY

Suitable for all purposes, but buy PURE DRINKING WATER from the

Crystal Springs Water Co.,

Phone 158. 52 Pearl Street.

1st—Visit Grand River. 2d—Visit the wells of our competitors. 3d—Visit the Crystal Springs, four miles south on Madison avenue. 4th—And last, you will be convinced that we—the first in the field—have been instrumental in bringing about the good health enjoyed by the city during the past year.

PROMPT DELIVERY

ORDER YOUR KOAL AND WOOD

OF E. A. HAMILTON, Under City National Bank. Telephone 1186.

VALLEY CITY IRON WORKS. RICE AND MILL STREET.

ADOLPH LEITELT,

—MANUFACTURER OF—

Steam Engines and Boilers and General Mill Machinery!

Nichols Lumber Dept. Lumber Improved Vapor Engine. 2 1/2 inch apparent steam, Hot Blast Apparatus for heating factories, Dry Kilns, Iron Piping, Pumps, Valves, etc. Improved turbines, Iron and Brass Castings, Building Casts, etc.

—WAIT—WAIT—WAIT—

FOR THE OPENING OF

THE GREAT SAMPLE SHOE SALE

Which will take place on Saturday, January 6th, commencing at 8 o'clock a. m., in the large store room under the Warwick Hotel, on South Division street, near Fulton. Look for Blue Sign. W. B. McNally & Co., one of the largest retail shoe houses of Cleveland, O., being unable to meet the pressing obligations of their judgment creditors, were last month closed up by the sheriff, who, by the order of the court, shipped the entire stock to this city, where it is to be disposed of by the single pair, or in case lots, for

Less Than 50 Cents on the Dollar!

The stock which inventoried a little over \$12,500 was made up for this fall and winter's trade and consists of everything from the Very Finest Ladies' Dress Shoe down to a Man's Cheap Working Shoe. This sale, which will begin Saturday Morning at 8 o'clock in the Warwick Hotel block, will be the greatest Sample Shoe Sale of the day. Money saved to the poor man is what counts now-a-days. Remember, we guarantee you that every item below quoted are for sale, and not only to read. Read them carefully.

Men's Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.75, at our store 99c.	Men's Shoes, worth \$3.00, \$3.50, at our store 1.49	Men's Shoes, worth \$4.50, \$4.75, at our store 1.88	Men's Boots, worth \$2.00, \$2.50, at our store 1.69	Boys' Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.65, at our store 88c.	Boys' Shoes, worth \$2.00, \$2.25, at our store 1.38	Youths' Shoes, worth \$1.00, \$1.75, at our store 89c.	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$1.00, \$1.25, at our store 84c.	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$1.75, \$2.00, at our store 1.24	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$3.00, \$3.25, at our store 1.54	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$4.50, \$5.50, at our store 2.22	Misses' Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.65, at our store 89c.	Misses' Shoes, worth \$1.25, \$2.25, at our store 1.29	Children's Shoes, worth \$1.15, \$1.25, at our store 69c.
Men's Shoes, worth \$2.00, \$2.50, at our store 1.19	Men's Shoes, worth \$3.50, \$3.75, at our store 1.54	Men's Shoes, worth \$4.75, \$5.00, at our store 1.98	Men's Boots, worth \$2.75, \$3.00, at our store 1.74	Boys' Shoes, worth \$1.75, \$1.75, at our store 99c.	Youths' Shoes, worth 75c, 85c, at our store 64c.	Youths' Shoes, worth \$1.25, \$1.50, at our store 99c.	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$1.25, \$1.50, at our store 99c.	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$2.00, \$2.25, at our store 1.29	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$3.25, \$3.50, at our store 1.59	Ladies' Oxfords, worth \$1.00, \$1.25, at our store 54c.	Misses' Shoes, worth \$1.75, \$1.80, at our store 99c.	Children's Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.75, at our store 39c.	Children's Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.75, at our store 74c.
Men's Shoes, worth \$2.00, \$2.75, at our store 1.24	Men's Shoes, worth \$3.75, \$4.00, at our store 1.69	Men's Slippers, worth 75c to \$1.00, at our store 59c.	Boys' Shoes, worth \$1.00, \$1.30, at our store 73c.	Boys' Shoes, worth \$1.75, \$1.90, at our store 1.18	Youths' Shoes, worth 85c, 90c, at our store 69c.	Youths' Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.75, at our store 1.24	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.65, at our store 1.18	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$2.25, \$2.35, at our store 1.38	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$3.50, \$3.75, at our store 1.68	Misses' Shoes, worth \$1.00, \$1.25, at our store 69c.	Misses' Shoes, worth \$1.00, \$2.00, at our store 1.12	Children's Shoes, worth 75c, 85c, at our store 48c.	Children's Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.65, at our store 79c.
Men's Shoes, worth \$2.75, \$3.00, at our store 1.38	Men's Shoes, worth \$4.25, \$4.50, at our store 1.79	Men's Slippers, worth \$1.00, \$1.25, at our store 63c.	Boys' Shoes, worth \$1.25, \$1.30, at our store 79c.	Boys' Shoes, worth \$2.00, \$2.00, at our store 1.24	Youths' Shoes, worth \$1.00, \$1.00, at our store 74c.	Youths' Shoes, worth \$1.75, \$1.80, at our store 1.34	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$1.65, \$1.75, at our store 1.22	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$2.75, \$3.00, at our store 1.49	Ladies' Shoes, worth \$3.75, \$4.00, at our store 1.89	Misses' Shoes, worth \$1.25, \$1.50, at our store 74c.	Misses' Shoes, worth \$2.25, \$2.25, at our store 1.24	Children's Shoes, worth 90c, \$1.00, at our store 64c.	Children's Shoes, worth \$1.50, \$1.75, at our store 86c.

SPECIAL MENTION—Ladies' Shoe Polish 2 cents a bottle, worth 15 cents. Ladies' Carpet Slippers 18 cents, worth 40 cents. We will give One Dollar's worth of Shoes for Fifty Cents, or make your Fifty Cents in cash count One Dollar in trade. Every pair a sample pair of shoes.

Remember Our Opening, Saturday, January 6th, Warwick Hotel Block, No. 7 South Division Street. Look for Blue Sign.